

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 9, 2005. Claims 1 to 4 are in the application, of which Claim 1 is the sole independent claim. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for her indication that Claims 1 and 2 are allowed. Based on that indication, and to correct an omission in the claim language of Claim 3, Claims 3 and 4 have been amended to depend from allowed Claim 1, as was Applicants' original intention.

The objections to Claims 3 and 4 have been attended to by amendment above.

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over either U.S. Patent 5,119,115 (Buat) or U.S. Patent 5,359,357 (Takagi), or under § 102(e) over U.S. Patent 6,336,698 (Imai); Claims 3 and 4 were rejected under § 102(e) over U.S. Patent 6,137,503 (Hashimoto), or under § 102(a) over European 1,177,904 (Takada); and Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent 5,552,816 (Oda) in view of Japan 2000-135796 (Kayano). These rejections are believed to result from the omission of proper dependency for Claim 3, which has been corrected as noted above.

An Information Disclosure Statement accompanies this Amendment. Consideration of the art cited therein is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,
California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to
our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael K. O'Neill", written over a horizontal line.

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